

NO.  
47

# ZIP

## COMICS

SUMMER  
10¢

AN  
**MLJ**  
MAGAZINE

BIJOU THEATRE  
"CROOKS CAN'T WIN"

Starring  
**STEEL** **RED**  
**STERLING** and **RUBE**





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# STEEL STERLING

MAN OF STEEL

IN  
THE STRANGE  
CASE OF THE  
**TIMID  
CORPSE**



BY CLEM

& FEN



STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN ON ANY  
POLICEMAN'S BEAT, AND CLANCY IS NO EXCEPTION!



HOLY COW!  
THAT LADY'S  
TRIPPING ON  
HER EVENIN'  
GOWN!

MRS. ADAMS--  
LOOK OUT--!

OH HHHH!

**PLOP!**

BUT CLANCY ARRIVES!

DON'T STAND  
THERE LIKE A  
DUMMY, MAN!  
HELP ME CARRY HER!



**MOAN!**

THE MADAM IS STUNNED!  
I COULD SLIP THAT  
KOHNOOR DIAMOND  
OFF HER NECK! I'VE  
HAD MY EYE ON IT  
SOME TIME!

CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS, AND...

MY ANKLE--OH H!  
IT FEELS  
BROKEN!



I'M GOING TO FAINT  
AGAIN--OH H! BUT  
GUARD THIS DIAMOND,  
OFFICER! IT'S  
THE KOH-  
NOOR--  
WORTH  
\$50,000!  
PLEASE  
WATCH  
IT!



AND LURKING AROUND THE CORNER  
IS ANOTHER, LURED BY THE FABULOUS  
GEM--KNOWN AS DIAMOND JIM!

HEY, WHAT A BREAK!  
I BEEN TRAILIN' DAT  
KOHNOOR DIAMOND  
A LONG TIME,  
WAITIN' TO NAB IT!  
NOW'S MY CHANCE--  
IN DA HOSPITAL!





WHEN THE HOSPITAL STAFF  
WAS TAKEN OVER--

THE MADAM SENT ME  
HOME! BUT SHE INSISTS  
ON KEEPING THE DIAMOND  
WITH HER!

BLAST IT ALL!

I'LL KEEP AN  
EYE ON THINGS  
HERE!

SIMPLE  
FRACTURE.  
SHE'LL BE OUT  
IN A WEEK!

BUT WHAT  
ABOUT THAT  
DIAMOND, DDC?  
SHE WAS WORRIED  
ABOUT IT--!

SURGEON JAMES TRENT IS TO OPERATE ON AN  
OLD FRIEND, ROGER MIEK!

OH THAT! WE  
NOTICED IT! IT  
WAS PLACED IN  
HER BED TABLE,  
WITH HER BELONG-  
INGS! EXCUSE ME,  
NOW--I HAVE AN  
EMERGENCY AP-  
PENDECTOMY WAITING!

JIM! JIM! WILL  
I-- WILL I-- LIVE?

OF COURSE, ROGER!  
WE'RE OLD FRIENDS.  
AND YOU KNOW I  
WOULDN'T KID YOU!

ETHER!

MEANWHILE, CLANCY VISITS  
HIS PATIENT

EVERYTHING  
ALL RIGHT.  
M'AM?

YES, OFFICER!  
THANK YOU SO  
MUCH! I'LL KEEP  
MY VALUABLE DIA-  
MOND WITH ME, IN THIS  
DRAWER! WHAT COULD  
BE SAFER THAN  
A HOSPITAL?

EKK! IT'S  
GONE-- MY  
DIAMOND'S  
GONE!

WHA--??





WIND TOOK IT? OHNN!

NO ONE WAS HERE EXCEPT MYSELF AND DR. TRENT!

HAH!



DIAMOND JIM! SO YOU GRABBED THE ROCK! C'MON, COUGH IT UP!

I DIDN'T. S'HELP ME! YA CAN SEARCH ME, COPPER!



SEE?

I'LL BE--2 I SHOULD PULL YA IN ON A VAGRANCY CHARGE, BUT BEAT IT! I GOTTA LOCATE THAT DIAMOND!



I HEARD SOMEONE AT THE DOOR!



THE CHAUFFEUR! WHAT'RE YOU BACK FOR? DID YOU GRAB THAT DIAMOND?

OOOPS!



I--ER--CAME BACK FOR A GLOVE I DROPPED! BUT I HAVEN'T THE DIAMOND!

IT'D BULGE OUT IF YA DID! HOLY SMOKE! HOW COULD THAT ROCK VANISH WHILE I WAS STANDIN' GUARD OUTSIDE THE DOOR ALL THE TIME?

MEANWHILE, DR. TRENT FINISHES HIS OPERATION!

YOUR APPENDIX, ROGER! IT'S OUT, AND YOU'RE ALL SEWED UP! THAT WASN'T SO BAD, NOW, WAS IT?



THE PATIENT, WEAK BUT GAME, MAKES A TIME-HONORED JEST--

SURE YOU--UH--DIDN'T LEAVE YOUR--UH--SCISSORS INSIDE OF ME, JIM? HA, HA!



HA, HA!



LATER, CLANCY TELLS THE STORY TO HIS FRIEND, STEEL STARLING --

THEN I SEARCHED THE WHOLE BLAMED HOSPITAL! HAD A SIGN OF THAT DIAMOND, STEEL. SOMEBODY GOT AWAY WITH IT-- BUT WHO?-- AND HOW?

HMM! MAYBE IT JUST ROLLED IN A CORNER! IT MAY SHOW UP NICE AS YOU PLEASE, ONE DAY!

BUT A MONTH LATER...

HOPE!

NEVER SHOWED UP, STEEL! BLAST IT-- I'D LOVE TO CRACK THIS CASE OPEN!

THIS INTRIGUES ME NOW! A FAMOUS DIAMOND LOST FOR A MONTH-- C'MON, LET'S VISIT THE HOSPITAL AND RETRACE THE EVENTS!

AS THEY ARRIVE, ROGER MIER IS JUST BEING DISCHARGED--

THANKS, JIM! I FEEL FIT AS A FIDDLE!

SO LONG, ROGER!

GOSH! OPEN AIR FEELS GOOD AGAIN! GEE, MY FRIENDS WERE GOOD TO ME WHILE I WAS THERE, BRINGING ME FLOWERS AND FRUIT! WHY, I HAVEN'T AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD!

BUT AS IF TO BELIEVE HIS WORDS, A BIG CAR SUDDENLY SEEMS ABOUT TO RUN HIM DOWN AS HE CROSSES THE STREET--

HELP!

COMING STRAIGHT AT ME!

HOLY SOCKS! THAT LITTLE GUY'S IN TROUBLE!

THE MAN OF STEEL STOPS THE PLUNGING VEHICLE!

WHOA, BOY!



THE DRIVER IS NONE OTHER THAN  
MRS. ADAMS CHAUFFEUR!

HEY, YOU! WHAT'S  
THE IDEA, TRYIN'  
TO RUN HIM  
DOWN?

I-I-I--ER--JUST  
AN ACCIDENT! WHEEL  
SLIPPED OUTA MY HANDS,  
THAT'S ALL!

GOLLY! WHAT A  
SCARE! BUT IT MUST  
BE AN ACCIDENT, OFFICER!  
I DON'T KNOW THIS MAN!  
HE COULDN'T HAVE ANY  
REASON FOR WANTING  
TO KILL ME!

WELL, ALL  
RIGHT, IF YOU  
SAY SO!

SOMETHING GOOFY  
ABOUT THAT! WHY  
SHOULD THAT CHAUF-  
FEUR TRY TO KILL  
MIEK? HE WAS AFTER  
THE DIAMOND, YOU TOLD  
ME--SO WHAT'S THE  
CONNECTION?

GUESS I  
GOTTA LET  
HIM GO!

HAS YOUR  
LIFE EVER  
BEEN THREATENED  
BEFORE, MIEK?

NEVER! THIS  
IS REALLY UP-  
SETTING!

SADLY PUZZLED, MEEK MR. MIEK  
GOES OFF, HIS LITTLE SOUL SHAKEN!

MEANWHILE, STEEL AND CLANCY  
ENTER THE HOSPITAL, AND

DR. JAMES  
TRENT, PLEASE!  
OFFICER CLANCY  
CALLING!

DOWN THE  
HALL, ROOM  
106!

DR. TRENT IS THE  
ONLY ONE WHO  
SAW THE DIAMOND  
PUT IN THE DRAWER  
MAYBE HE CAN  
GIVE US A CLUE--

WE'LL SEE  
HIM!

ROOM  
106  
DR. JAMES  
TRENT



MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE OFFICE, DIAMOND JIM HAS THE SAME IDEA!

DAT DOC KNOWS SOMETHIN' ABOUT DA DIAMOND! WHAT'S DIS? -- HIS PRIVATE DIARY?

AHA! BOY DIS MAKES IT ALL CLEAR!

DIARY

A COP--  
AND STEEL  
STERLING!

DIAMOND  
JIM! WHAT  
IN BLAZES  
ARE YOU --!

GOTTA  
SCRAM!

WANTA  
PLAY ROUGH,  
EH?

OKEY!

UGH!

POW

STOP HIM!  
HE KNOWS  
SOMETHING!

BUT OUTSIDE THE DOOR, DR TRENT  
ARRIVES JUST IN TIME TO ACCIDENT-  
ALLY AID DIAMOND JIM'S ESCAPE!

HEY! WHAT  
GOES ON IN MY  
OFFICE--UGH!

OOF!





WHAT COULD DIAMOND JIM HAVE BEEN AFTER IN YOUR OFFICE, DR. TRENT?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I'M A DOCTOR, NOT A DETECTIVE! PLEASE LEAVE, GENTLEMEN! I MUST PREPARE FOR AN OPERATION!



CAN YOU MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF IT, STEEL?

I HAVE A HUNCH--THAT ROGER MIEK IS THE KEY TO THE WHOLE CASE! MY THEORY IS SO CRAZY I WON'T EVEN EXPLAIN IT--TILL I HAVE PROOF!



AND I'M GOING OUT FOR IT, NOW!

HEY, STEEL, WAIT!



STEEL HASTENS TO ROGER MIEK'S ADDRESS--

TAKING A WALK!

I'LL TAIL HIM AND SEE IF MY THEORY'S RIGHT!



**S**UDDENLY!!

BANG BANG

HUH? I'M BEING SH-- SHOT AT? HELP!



I'LL TAKE THAT NOW, PAL!

WOT TH--



DIAMOND JIM AGAIN! NOW YOU'RE AFTER ROGER MIEK TOO? BUT WHY?









COME WITH ME, MIEK!

NO! WIT ME!

B-BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND--?



SORRY, FELLAS! MIEK IS COMING WITH ME!

OOOF!



I'M SO CONFUSED! I'M GOING MAD, I TELL YOU! WHY HAS MY LIFE BEEN ONE WRETCHED MESS SINCE I LEFT THE HOSPITAL?

THAT'S THE ANSWER, MIEK - AT THE HOSPITAL!



DR TRENT! YOU TOOK OUT ROGER MIEK'S APPENDIX LAST MONTH-- BUT YOU SEWED UP IN HIM THE KONNOOR DIAMOND! YOU ARE THE THIEF!

WHY YOU'LL



NOW, NOW, DOCTOR! I DON'T NEED AN OPERATION!

UGH!

WOP



HERE, MR MIEK IS TRENT'S PRIVATE RECORD OF WHY HE SEWED THE DIAMOND INSIDE YOU!

GULP! A DIAMOND! SEWED INSIDE ME!



My beloved patient's appendix space large enough for diamond? Well, I'll be back with a wish on it, complete operation. I will operate and remove diamond. Long after case is forgotten--



THAT WAS WHY THEY TRIED TO KILL MIEK FIRST-- THEN SAVED HIM FROM DROWNING! HIS BODY WOULD HAVE FLOATED AWAY IN THE RIVER!

WHAT A SCREWY CASE! DOC TRENT THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE HIS FORTUNE BY THAT ONE SIMPLE OPERATION! HIDING A STOLEN DIAMOND INSIDE A LIVING MAN! AIN'T THAT TH' LIMIT?



# GINGER



GEE, I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT FIRST DATE WITH TOMMY!

by GINGER

HILLY  
THE  
NO

GINGER IS DRESSING FOR A DATE WITH TOMMY. IT'S GOING TO BE A PERFECT DATE BECAUSE GINGER SAYS SO... AND YOU KNOW GINGER!!

IT WAS AT THE YACHT CLUB DANCE UNDER A JUNE MOON AND TOMMY WAS SINGING TO ME

IF I HAD MY WAY DEAR FOREVER THERE'D BE A GARDEN OF ROSES FOR YOU AND FOR ME

OH TOMMY, THIS IS TOO ROMANTIC!

A THOUSAND AND ONE THINGS... OOPS!!



GOOD GOSH!  
I JUST FELT A  
DROP OF RAIN!  
AND I'VE GOT  
DAD'S TUX ON!

I KNOW  
JUST THE  
THING!



QUICK, HERE'S A SHORT  
CUT TO THE CLUB - IF  
I'M NOT MISTAKEN.

ARE  
YOU  
SURE?



OH, TOMMY, WE'VE  
HIT A ROCK!



SURE, I'M SURE! WHY  
I'VE COME THIS WAY  
HUNDREDS OF ...

SUDDENLY!

R-R-RIP

BANG

CRASH



YOU JUST KEEP  
BAILING WHILE I  
PADDLE!

WATCH WHERE  
YOU'RE GOING NOW!  
IF THIS TUX GETS WET  
DAD'LL KILL  
ME!

WHY, OF COURSE!  
I KNOW THIS  
STREAM LIKE  
A BOOK!

DUCK,  
TOMMY!  
DUCK!







OH, TOMMY,  
YOU'RE SO  
CLUMSY! WHY  
DIDN'T YOU  
DUCK?

HEY, GET  
ME DOWN  
OUTA HERE!



DON'T WORRY!  
I'LL SAVE  
YOU!

HURRY! I  
TOLD YOU THIS  
IS MY DAD'S  
TUX!



... AND I  
MUSTN'T  
GET IT W...

OH! IT'S  
RAINING!



WHY, LOOK! ISN'T  
THIS FUNNY? WE  
COULD HAVE  
WALKED ASHORE!

OH NHH!



AND THEN-- THEN I  
JUST HAD TO GIVE A  
PARTY TO MAKE UP  
TO TOMMY!



HIYA, GINGER!

GEE, BUT YOU'RE  
LOOKING SHARP  
TOMMY, DEAR! DID  
YOUR DAD GET A  
NEW TUX?



AND I THOUGHT IT WAS A  
GOOD IDEA TO START HIM  
TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF

TOMMY DEAR, TELL  
EVERYONE ABOUT  
THAT TOUCHDOWN  
YOU MADE!

YEH, TOM!  
TELL US!



WELL - IF YOU INSIST --  
IT WAS THE LAST QUARTER AND  
THEY WERE AHEAD - SEVEN  
TO SIX --



WE WERE ON THE  
FORTY YARD LINE,  
WITH ONE MINUTE  
TO PLAY!



HE'S COMPLETELY  
FORGOTTEN ABOUT  
GETTING THAT SILLY  
OLD TUCK ALL WET!



JO THE QUARTERBACK  
SAID, "TOMMY, IT'S UP TO YOU  
NOW! YOU GOTTA WIN THIS  
BALL GAME FOR US!"



GOSH, I'M  
SO GLAD!

I GRABBED  
THE BALL  
FROM CENTER,  
SPUN AROUND--



... AND RACED  
FOR THE --



HELP!



CRASH







AND I  
MADE THE  
TOUCHDOWN

AND  
NOW  
BACK  
TO THE  
PRESENT



THAT MUST BE  
TOMMY NOW!  
I KNOW TONIGHT  
IS GOING TO BE  
JUST TOO WONDERFUL!



GEE, TOMMY  
YOU LOOK  
KEEN! AND  
GUESS  
WHAT, DAD  
IS LETTING  
US TAKE  
THE SEDAN!

GOSH, GINGER,  
THAT'S SUPER.  
BECAUSE MY DAD  
DOESN'T KNOW I'M  
WEARING HIS NEW  
TUX, AND IF

OH,  
THERE  
YOU ARE!



I'M SORRY, GINGER  
BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE  
THE CAR TO PICK UP  
MIKE MOORE... HE'S GOING  
TO STRING  
UP THE  
AERIAL!

AW  
GEE!  
DAD?



OH, TOMMY!  
MAYBE YOU  
COULD STRING  
IT UP!

WELL, TO  
PLAY SAFE  
MAYBE I  
SHOULD!



BECAUSE, I SURE  
WOULDN'T WANT  
TO GET CAUGHT  
IN A STORM  
WITH DAD'S  
TUX ON!

OH STOP  
YOUR MUTTERING  
AND HURRY  
UP.



JUST THEN

**CRASH**

YI!

OH TOMMY  
HURRY DOWN-  
IT'S STARTING  
TO RAIN!

COME ON AND  
STOP MUMBLING!

HEY, WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?

GINGER!  
HOLD  
THE  
LADDER!

OHMMH!

OH, DEAR!  
MAYBE TOMMY  
AND I WERE  
NEVER MEANT  
FOR EACH  
OTHER!

**HALP!**

TOMMY!  
THE VERY  
IDEA! WHY  
DON'T YOU--  
OH...

AND IF I EVER  
SEE ANOTHER  
TUX, I'LL  
**SCREAM!**

CLASH CAN



# RED RUBE



H-HEY,  
R-RUBE!

DOWN MEXICO WAY, EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT "EL TORNADO!", THE FIERCEST BULL THAT EVER GORED A MATADOR! IT IS RUMORED THAT EL TORNADO CAN OUTCHARGE AN ARMORED TANK, THAT HIS HORNS ARE SHARPER THAN BAYONETS, AND THAT HE IS SO FEROCIOUS THAT A MERE LOOK AT HIM TURNS THE BRAVEST MAN INTO A COWARD! SO WHEN RED RUBE IS INVITED TO MEXICO TO FURTHER LATIN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND FINDS HIMSELF IN THE ARENA WITH EL TORNADO, SURPRISING THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN! SURPRISING BOTH TO RED RUBE... AND EL TORNADO!



Bill Vigoda



IN THE OFFICES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS COUNCIL—

WHAT A CALAMITY!  
WITH POLITICAL CONDITIONS  
SO UNCERTAIN IN MEXICO  
CITY, OUR AMBASSADOR  
AND HIS WHOLE STAFF  
COMES DOWN WITH  
THE MEASLES!



BUT WHO CAN  
WE GET? WHO?

I ADVERTISED FOR  
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS  
RED RUBE! I  
THOUGHT MAYBE  
HE'D APPEAR!



IS SOMEBODY  
HERE LOOKING  
FOR RED  
RUBE?

WHAT DO YOU  
CARE? YOU'RE  
NOT RED RUBE!



UNLESS WE COULD  
SEND A GOOD-WILL  
AMBASSADOR DOWN  
THERE TO SMOOTH  
THINGS OVER  
TEMPORARILY, THE  
LATIN-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS WILL  
SUFFER A  
DAMAGING BLOW!



IT'S TOO LATE!  
WE'RE RUINED!

PARDON  
ME

I THINK I  
KNOW WHERE  
TO FIND HIM!

YOU DO? WELL,  
THEN, BRING HIM  
HERE!







INSTANTLY THE AIR VIBRATES WITH A STRANGE ELECTRICITY--



AND REUBEN REUBEN THE NEWSBOY, BECOMES THE MIGHTY RED RUBE!



GOOD! THE PLANE LEAVES FOR MEXICO CITY IN AN HOUR!

RED RUBE TO MEET EL TORNADO!



WHILE IN MEXICO CITY THE AGENTS OF TRECHEROUS NIPPON ALSO HEAR THE NEWS--

THIS EL TORNADO IS THE FIERCEST BULL IN THE WHOLE WORLD!



LOOK HOW BIG  
HE IS-S! YES-S?

IT IS-S POSSIBLE HE  
CAN DEFEAT RED  
RUBE, YE-S?



WE MUST DO  
SOMETHING! NOW  
HERE IS-S MY PLAN...

MOST EXCELLENT!  
STUPENDOUS-S-S!  
IT IS EVEN OKAY!



WHY DECEIVE OURSELVES?  
WE HAVE ALL HEARD OF  
THIS RED RUBE! WE KNOW  
WHAT HE  
CAN DO!

HE WILL TEAR  
EL TORNADO  
APART WITH  
HIS BARE  
HANDS!



MEANWHILE RED RUBE ENTERS MEXICO CITY  
IN A TRIUMPHANT PROCESSION-

VIVA  
RED RUBE!

VIVA LOS  
AMERICANOS!



YOU'RE A HIT!  
THE PEOPLE ARE  
GOING CRAZY  
ABOUT YOU!

I HOPE THEY  
STILL LIKE ME  
AFTER I MEET  
EL TORNADO  
IN THE  
ARENA TOMOR-  
ROW!



LATER, IN THE SUITE OF ROOMS AT  
MEXICO CITY'S LARGEST HOTEL! -

I'M NOT WORRYING  
ABOUT MYSELF! BUT  
I HOPE I CAN PUT ON A  
GOOD SHOW FOR THESE  
PEOPLE! THEY'VE BEEN  
SWELL!

I BRING YOU  
ICE WATER.  
YES-S!





LITTLE DOES RED RUBE SUSPECT THAT THIS INNOCENT GLASS OF ICE WATER CONTAINS ENOUGH SLEEPING PILLS TO PUT THE AVERAGE MAN INTO A COMA LASTING FIFTY YEARS!

YOU'LL BE A SENSATION!  
ONLY DON'T BE TOO  
ROUGH WITH EL TORNADO!



I'M A LITTLE  
TIRED! GUESS I'LL  
GRAB SOME  
SLEEP!

SEE YOU  
AT THE  
ARENA  
TOMORROW!



HEH! HEH! IF RED RUBE GOES  
TO FIGHT EL TORNADO IN THE  
MORNING, HE WILL BE A DEAD  
MAN TOMORROW AFTERNOON!  
YES-S-S!



NEXT DAY A HUGE CROWD  
GATHERS AT THE ARENA TO  
WATCH THE BATTLE OF THE  
CENTURY.. RED RUBE VS. EL  
TORNADO!



HERE HE  
COMES!

BUT WHAT'S THE  
MATTER WITH HIM?  
HE LOOKS HALF ASLEEP!



WHAT'S GOT INTO  
HIM? HE CAN'T  
STAND UP!





HALF ASLEEP? ONLY RED RUBE'S MAGNIFICENT POWERS ARE ABLE TO KEEP HIM CONSCIOUS AT ALL!



YOUR SWORD, SENOR RED RUBE!

NO. YAWN. THANKS! HMM. ZZZ

DIOS MIO! HE HAS REFUSED TO TAKE A SWORD!

SOOCH COURAGE! HE IS JUST AS WONDERFUL AS LES AMERICANES SAY!



YOUR CAPE, SENOR?

ZZZ I'LL USE MY OWN. HMM. THANKS, ANYWAY!



SANTA MARIA! HE DOES NOT EVEN USE THE CAPE!

EL TORNADO WILL KILL HIM SURE FOR CERTAIN!



AT THIS MOMENT EL TORNADO EMERGES INTO THE ARENA -

RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

ONE MATADOR DOES NOT RUN QUITE FAST ENOUGH AND EL TORNADO TRAPS HIM IN THE ARENA -

POOR SANCHO! I CANNOT BEAR TO LOOK!



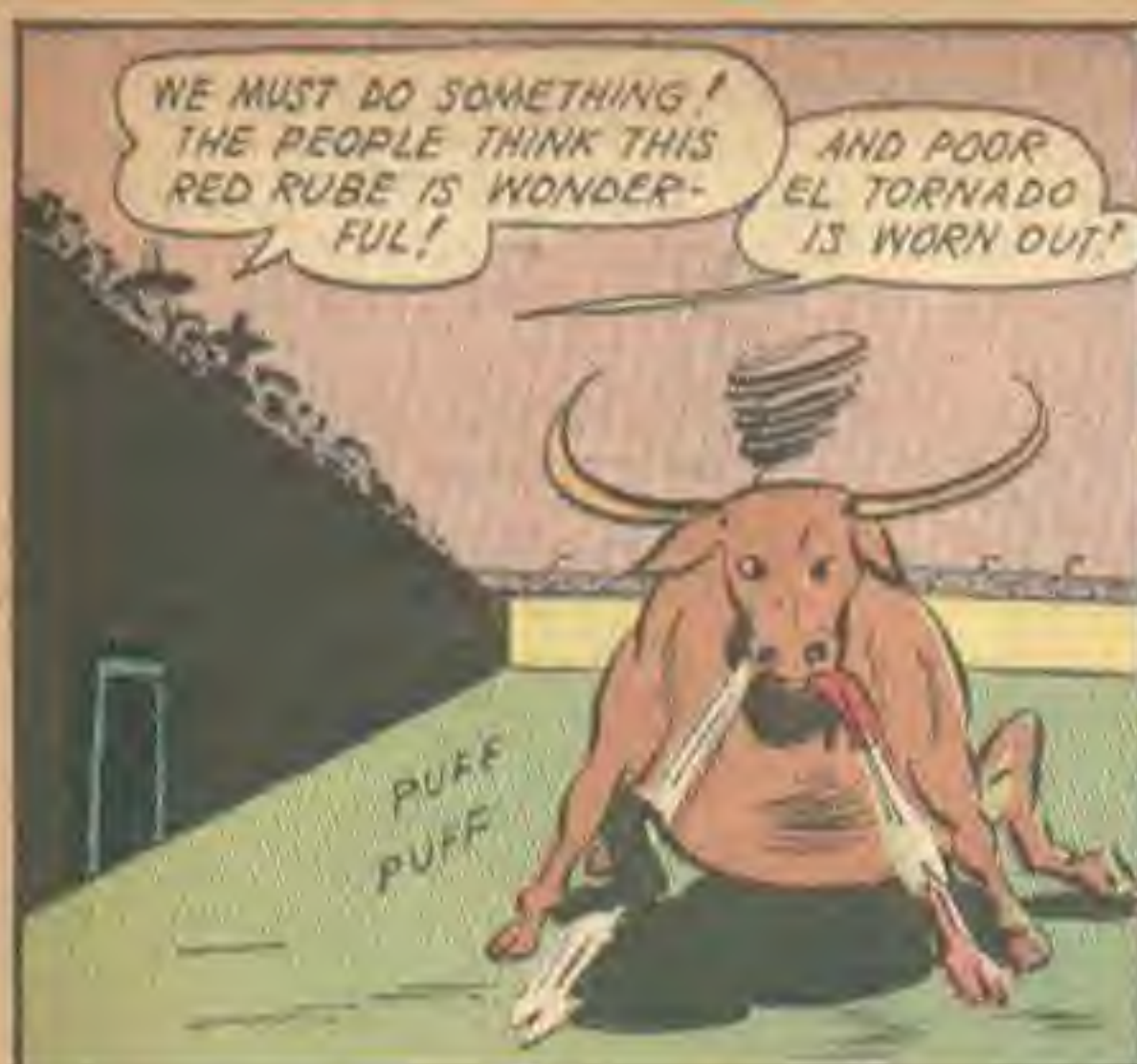














I CAN'T GET AWAY!  
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO  
EXCEPT...



MEET THE DANGER  
HEAD ON!

BAM



AS THE DUST AND HAZE OF THAT TERRIFIC COL-  
LISION FADES, WE SEE A STRANGE SCENE -

THERE, THERE!  
YOU'LL BE ALL  
RIGHT! YOU'LL  
JUST HAVE A  
BAD HEADACHE  
FOR A  
WHILE!



LATER... THESE MEN THREW GARLIC TO EL  
TORNADO! WE CAUGHT THEM TRYING  
TO ESCAPE! THEY DEED NOT GET  
VERY FAR!

JAPS! I MUST  
CONGRATULATE  
YOU ON YOUR  
EXCELLENT POLICE  
WORK!



COME TO THINK OF IT, ONE  
OF THOSE MEN LOOKED LIKE  
THE BELLBOY AT THE HOTEL!  
I'LL BET THAT'S WHY I FELT  
LIKE I WAS  
DRUGGED!  
I REALLY  
WAS!



BUT ALL'S WELL THAT  
ENDS WELL. AND LATER  
RED RUBE SHARES THE  
PLAUDITS OF THE  
CROWDS WITH HIS  
VALIANT OPPONENT -

VIVA! LONG LIVE RED  
RUBE! LONG LIVE EL  
TORNADO!



THAT'S ALL FOLKS! EXCEPT  
THAT EL TORNADO WAS  
NEVER THE SAME AFTER-  
WARD! IN FACT, HE BECAME  
THE MOST PEACEFUL BULL  
IN THE WHOLE OF MEXICO!  
HE LEARNED HIS LESSON  
FROM RED RUBE!





# STEEL STERLING



IN  
THE  
CASE OF  
THE  
*TALKING*  
*DOG*



GEE! I'VE ALREADY  
SOLD 159 TICKETS TO THE  
POLICEMAN'S BALL! AL  
SMITH, THE THEATRICAL  
BOOKING AGENT, IS  
ALWAYS GOOD FOR  
ONE!

NO ANSWER! THAT'S FUNNY,  
I CALLED HIM ON THE PHONE  
THIS MORNING AND HE SAID  
HE'D BE IN! HMMM—THE  
DOOR IS OPEN!

HUH? NO ONE  
HERE BUT A  
POOCH!

HERE DOGGIE,  
NICE DOGGIE!

SNIFF!  
SNIFF!

AW, GO FUDDLE A  
DUDDLE, FATTIE!

OK.  
IF THAT'S THE  
WAY YOU FEEL  
ABOUT IT!

HUH? WHAT DID YA  
SAY? WHY YOU—!!

YOU MUTT!  
IF I LAY MY HANDS ON YOU,  
YOU'LL WISH YOU'D KEPT  
YOUR MOUTH SHUT!





WHA... 2



NOW, SEE! YOU GOT ME ALL UPSET! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF NOW? — SO YOU WON'T TALK, EH?

— TALK? WHAT AM I SAYING? OH MY GOSH! DID THAT DOG REALLY TALK?

YOU'RE COMIN' WITH ME! WE'RE GONNA FIND YER MASTER, HELL CLEAR THIS UP! MAYBE I'M CRAZY, BUT I COULDA SWORN I HEARD YOU TALK!





I'VE TRIED EVERYPLACE BUT THE BEDROOM, WELL WHADDAYA KNOW? THERE'S AL... ASLEEP IN THE BED!



HEY AL! GET UP! GEE HE SURE CAN SLEEP! HEY AL, WAKE UP! IT'S ME, CLANCY!



I'LL YANK THE COVERS OFF YA 'N YE'LL HAVE TO GET UP! YOU LAZY BUGGER!



HUH! OH GOSH! HE'S - HE'S - HE'S -



MEANWHILE AT THE POLICE STATION ---

CLANCY MAY BE YOUR PAL, STERLING, BUT HE SURE IS DUMB!

YOU'RE NO QUIZ KID YOURSELF, MULLIGAN!



GRAB YOUR PHONE! IT'S RINGING!

PHONE? WHAT PHONE! OH YEAH! YOU MEAN MY PHONE!



HULLO! WHO-WHAT? TALKING DOG? - WHO IS THIS? - DEAD? - WHO'S DEAD? - CLANCY? - CLANCY'S DEAD? - DOG? AL SMITH? -





HERE, YOU TALK TO THAT CLUCK! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING HE SAYS!

IT'S STEEL, CLANCY NOW CALM DOWN AND TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE, AL SMITH'S.. 1340 ELM ST. OKAY, WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

WELL, SMITH'S DEAD ALL RIGHT... BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A TALKING DOG, CLANCY?

YEAH, STUPID! IF YOU USED YER EYES MORE AN' YER IMAGINATION LESS, YA MIGHTA CAUGHT THE MURDERER!

BUT IT DID TALK I TELL YA!

G'WAY, ARE YOU TRYIN' TO TELL ME THAT THIS POOCH TALKED?

YEAH!... AND IT MADE MORE SENSE THAN YOU!

CLANCY YER NUTS!

IZZASO! WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE POOCH A QUESTION AN' SEE FOR YOURSELF, WISE GUY!

I'LL TRY IT CLANCY WHAT'S YOUR NAME, POOCH?

LISTEN! I KNOW WHAT YOU GUYS ARE THINKIN'! BUT I'M NOT CRAZY I TELL YA! THAT DOG TALKED!





I DON'T THINK YOU'RE NUTS - I KNOW YOU ARE! I'M CALLIN' FOR THE CORONER TO REMOVE THE BODY!



LATER, AT STEEL'S APARTMENT - MAYBE MULLIGAN'S RIGHT - MAYBE I AM CRAZY (GULP) HAM - SMITH WAS IN THE SHOW BUSINESS AND BOOKED PLENTY OF PRANKS! BUT, TALK-ING DOG!



BY GEORGE! CLANCY I'VE GOT IT!

HUH? WHAT?



MAYBE THAT DOG DID TALK! BUT I THINK I KNOW HOW!



YOU DO? HOW?

VENTRILO-QUIST, CLANCY!



I'M GOING TO SMITH'S APARTMENT AND HAVE A LOOK AT HIS FILES TO SEE IF HE EVER BOOKED A VENTRILOQUIST!



I ONLY HOPE THE KILLER DIDN'T THINK OF IT FIRST!



AT AL'S APARTMENT SOMETIME  
LATER--

NOW WHERE IS THAT COP  
MULLIGAN LEFT HERE TO  
GUARD THE PLACE!

WHAT'S  
THAT?

DEAD.. I GOT  
HERE TOO  
LATE!

I'LL LOOK  
ANYWAY TO  
MAKE SURE!

HOPE--  
NOTHING HERE...  
JAY WHAT'S THAT  
ON THE FLOOR?

ASHES AND  
VERY FRESH  
FROM THE  
LOOKS OF IT!

IT'S A FAR-  
FETCHED  
CHANCE!





BUT I'LL TAKE THIS TO THE POLICE LAB!



DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ANALYZE THESE ASHES?

I THINK SO! AS LONG AS THE ASH ISN'T BROKEN UP, I CAN GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT!



AFTER AWHILE -

WELL, HERE'S THE RESULT STEEL! I HOPE IT'S WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

SO DO I!

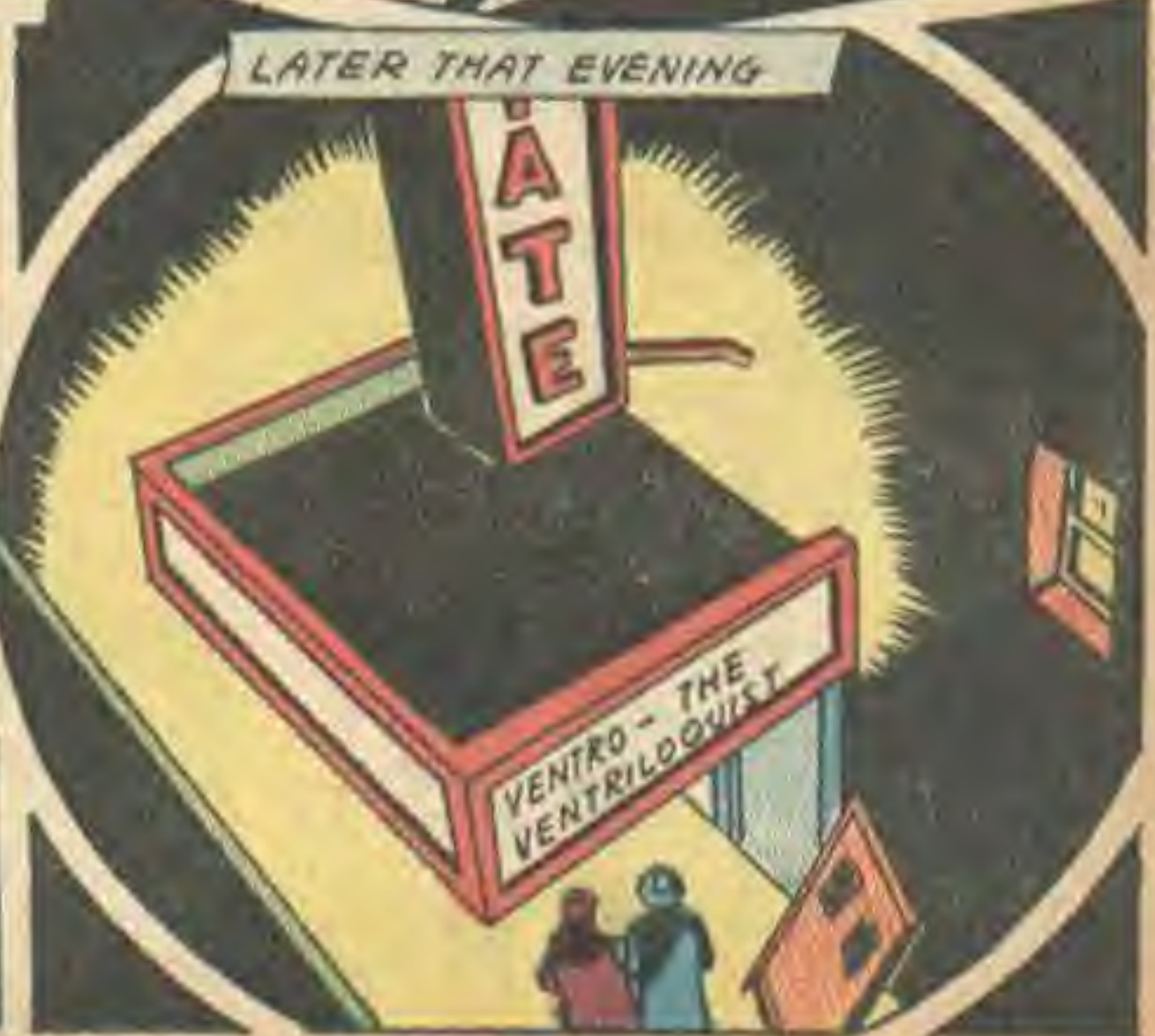


AL SMITH BOOKING AGENCY  
THEATRICS  
NAME - Ventrone the Ventriloquist  
ADDRESS - 452 Alabama Ave  
BOOKINGS - Bijou Theatre  
Roxy  
Capital State



PERFECT EVER HEAR OF VENTRO. THE VENTRILLOQUIST DOC!

SURE JUST CAUGHT HIS ACT AT THE STATE LAST NIGHT! CLEVER CHAP!



LATER THAT EVENING



I LIKE YOUR  
CRUST CALLING  
ME DUMB, CHARLIE!  
WHY YOU'RE CLOSE  
TO A MORON!

HMM--SO I'M  
CLOSE TO A  
MORON, VENTRO,  
AM I?

IN THAT CASE  
I'LL MOVE AWAY  
HEH, HEH! SOME  
JOKE HUH FOLKS!

SAV CHARLIE,  
WHAT'S THE  
DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN VENTRO  
AND A GLASS OF  
BEER?

THAT'S EASY! A  
GLASS OF BEER HAS  
A HEAD ON IT! HO, HO, HO

ASK ME  
ANOTHER ONE  
FOLKS! ANY  
SIMILARITY TO AN  
INSULT IS PURELY  
INTENTIONAL!

HERE'S AN EASY  
ONE, CHARLIE!  
WHY DID YOUR  
BOSS, VENTRO,  
KILL AL SMITH?

STEEL  
STERLING!

TOO BAD FOR  
YOU, YOU FOUND  
OUT, STERLING!



WELL, IF IT  
ISN'T PISTOL  
PRICKIN' VENTRO!

PANIC-STRICKEN, VENTRO  
DARTS BACKSTAGE

I WONDER WHERE THAT  
BUGGER DISAPPEARED  
TO!

OH! OH! DON'T  
BOTHR ANSWERING  
THAT! I KNOW WHERE  
HE IS!

I DON'T  
SUPPOSE I  
CAN COAX  
YOU TO  
COME DOWN!

WHAM

SO I'LL  
COME UP  
AFTER YOU!

POW

THE JIG'S UP VENTRO  
YOU MAY AS WELL  
CONFESS RIGHT NOW!

ALLRIGHT STERLING,  
I'LL CONFESS, BUT YOU  
MUST LET ME DO IT IN  
MY OWN WAY!

OKAY!  
BUT NO  
TRICKS!

ZOWIE

MEANWHILE ON STAGE

PLEASE BE CALM, LADIES AND  
GENTLEMEN! IT WAS ALL A MIS-  
TAKE AND EVERYTHING'S UNDER  
CONTROL NOW! VENTRO WILL  
NOW GO ON WITH HIS ACT!





NOW FOR THE \$64 QUESTION, CHARLIE! WHO MURDERED AL SMITH-AND WHY?

SIMPLE! YOU DID, BOSS! SMITH WAS A RAT AND GOT WHAT WAS COMING TO HIM!



HE WAS CHEATING YOU FOR YEARS, GIVING YOU HALF THE BOOKING MONEY THAT WAS COMING TO YOU!



GOOD LORD! THE FOOL'S SHOT HIMSELF!



WELL, WE SURE CRACKED THAT CASE, HUH, STEEL?

I DON'T KNOW, WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU, CLANCY!



BOY AM I A SUCKER FALLING FOR A GAG LIKE THAT! IMAGINE ME THINKING A DOG CAN TALK! HAW, HAW! AIN'T THAT A LAUGH!



YEAH, HOW CAN ANYONE BE SO STUPID AS TO THINK AN ANIMAL CAN TALK!

YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL HORSIE!



HUH!



SEE, IT'S SIMPLE! JUST PLACE THIS GADGET ON THE TIP OF THE TONGUE AND YOU CAN THROW YOUR VOICE ANYWHERE!



AS I WUZ SAYIN, STEEL....

GAVE SCRAP PAPER, AND HELP WIN THE WAR--



# RED RUBE



ER... OH...  
HELLO  
FOLKS!





RUEBEN STEPS OUT OF THE SUBWAY, ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK, WHEN...

HEY!  
WHAT'S  
EVERYONE  
RUNNING  
FOR?

SUDDENLY...

WHAT  
TH...!

ATTENTION! EARTHMEN!  
BE PREPARED FOR AN  
INVASION BY MARTIANS!  
ALL ATTEMPTS TO  
RESIST WILL BE  
SEVERELY PUNISHED!

AWKK! IT'S  
A M-MARTIAN!

SAY.. WHAT'S  
GOING ON HERE?  
LOOK AT THAT  
GUY RUN!

WHAT A STORY!  
I'M GETTING  
BACK TO  
THE  
OFFICE!

MADE  
IT!

ACME BUS CO.

WATCH  
YOUR  
STEPS!



THE OFFICES OF THE NEW YORK SUN.

GEE I:  
HOPE NO  
ONE ELSE  
HAS BROUGHT  
IN THE  
STORY!

I TELL YOU, WE'RE  
BEING INVADED BY  
MARS!

THIS GUY IS A  
**CRACKPOT!**  
THROW HIM OUT,  
JOE!

C'MON, BUDDY,  
OUT YOU  
GO!

YOU'LL REGRET  
THIS! WHEN AMERICA  
IS **CONQUERED**,  
YOU'LL COME TO  
ME FOR MERCY!

SAY, THIS  
SOUNDS SERIOUS!  
I'LL FOLLOW  
HIM, AND GET TO  
THE BOTTOM  
OF THIS!

HELP!  
THE MARTIANS  
ARE HERE!

WHAT..  
AGAIN?

EARTHMEN!  
MAKE WAY FOR  
YOUR MASTERS!

WOW!  
THIS LOOKS  
LIKE A JOB  
FOR RED  
RUBE!

















WELL!  
HOW DO  
YOU LIKE  
YOUR  
VIEW?



MIND IF I STEP  
OUT? IT WAS  
GETTING  
STUFFY!



VOICES!  
FROM THIS  
DOOR!



YOUR NEXT  
MOVE, MAJOR  
RETEL WILL BE  
TO DESTROY ALL  
ARSENALS!

AHHAA..  
SOOO



HOLD ON!  
NO ONE IS  
MOVING, UNTIL  
I SAY SO!



YOU DOUBT  
ME?



THIS SHOULD  
CONVINCE  
YOU!



I'M GOING, BUT I'LL  
BE BACK..  
MEANWHILE, WHY  
DON'T YOU HANG  
UP YOUR  
COATS?



DARN IT! THERE  
GOES THAT  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
AGAIN! IF I COULD  
ONLY FIND ITS  
SOURCE! IT'S  
CREATING  
A PANIC!



IT SEEMS TO BE  
COMING FROM THIS  
STREET! I WONDER  
IF THOSE MAINTENANCE  
MEN COULD HELP  
ME??



BUT WAIT!  
WHAT'S THAT ON  
HIS BACK?? HEY!  
IT'S A LOUD  
SPEAKING  
UNIT!



HEY, YOU!  
COME  
DOWN!

RED  
RUBE!



OBSTINATE, EH?  
THIS WILL  
UPSET YOUR  
EQUILIBRIUM!



RUN, YOU  
RATZIS!











THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!  
LET ME DOWN!

THERE THEY ARE, BOYS! ALL YOURS! READY AND WAITING!

UNHOOK THEM SERGEANT! THEY LOOK LIKE PIGS ON A HOOK!



I'LL WRITE TO DER FUEHRER! THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

AW, QUIET! DER FUEHRER IS TOO BUSY WITH HIS OWN TROUBLES IN RUSSIA!

KEEP MOVING CHUMS!



I'VE GOT SOME CALLS TO MAKE, S'LONG!



OKAY, REUBEN! YOU CAN TAKE OVER FROM NOW! HEY RUBE!



HELLO...CHIEF? YEH! THIS IS REUBEN! HAVE I GOT A SCOOP FOR YOU...STRAIGHT FROM RED RUBE! ALL ABOUT THAT CRACKPOT PROFESSOR! OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!



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SCOOPED  
EVERY PAPER  
.....  
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